REMARKS

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-15 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1, 3, 4, 8, 9, 11 and 12 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in this or another application. The Examiner is thanked for the indication that claim 14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has therefore rewritten claim 14 in independent form in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that any claim depending directly or indirectly therefrom, is now in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, no new matter has been added by these amendments and no estoppels are intended thereby. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

OFFICE ACTION

OBJECTIONS TO DRAWINGS

Without conceding the propriety of the rejection, claim 8 has been cancelled rendering the objection to the drawings moot. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this objection.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 8-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enabling requirement. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Without conceding the propriety of the rejection, claims 8, 9 and 11 have been cancelled rendering this rejection moot with respect to these claims. Furthermore, claim 10 has been amended to depend from claim 14, which was indicated allowable. Accordingly, in light of the aforementioned remarks, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

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REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ancrenaz (U.S. Patent No. 5,067,358). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant notes that a claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. (quoting *Verdegall Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631 (Fed. Cir. 1987)).

As previously discussed, without conceding the propriety of the rejection, claims 1, 3, 4, 8, 9, 11 and 12 have been cancelled rendering this rejection moot with respect to these claims.

Also, as previously mentioned, claim 14 has been rewritten independent form, as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that this claim 14 is now in condition for allowance. Claims 2, 5-7, 10 and 13 depend directly or indirectly therefrom and are believed allowable for at least this reason.

In light of the aforementioned remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection to claims 1-13 and 15 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

A Petition for a one-month extension-of-time in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), to extend the time for response to the non-final Office Action mailed February 9, 2007, is submitted herewith. Any additional extension of time necessary to prevent abandonment is hereby requested, and any fee necessary for consideration of this response is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2036.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of the application are believed in order, and such action is earnestly solicited.
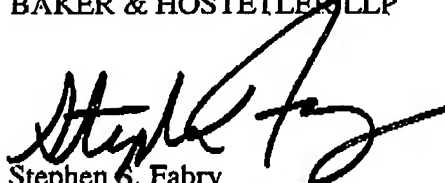
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Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite issuance of the application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at (202) 861-1714.

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER & HOSTETLER LLP

Stephen G. Fabry
Registration No. 51,661

Date: __7/3/07__

Washington Square, Suite 1100
1050 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036
Tel: 202 861 1500
Fax: 202 861 1783